

PHYSICAL THERAPIST AIDES work under the direct supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to provide help when a patient is receiving treatment. They prepare patients by helping them dress and undress and by putting on and taking off supports and other helpful devices. They put patients into therapy equipment and supports and turn and keep them stable during treatment.

Because they are not licensed, Aides do not perform the clinical tasks of a physical therapist assistant. They give water treatments, paraffin baths, and apply hot and cold packs. In addition, they keep track of patients' condition during treatment and report signs of tiredness, distress or other problems. They take patients to and from treatment centers, using proper techniques according to the patients' condition.

Aides change bed sheets and pillowcases, keep treatment supplies in order, clean treatment areas, and sterilize or disinfect equipment and instruments. Clerical duties include ordering supplies, filing medical records, and delivering messages.

### Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Clinical on-the-job-training.
- ▲ Strong verbal and writing skills.
- ▲ Ability to read and follow instructions.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

### Wages

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| ▲ Physical Therapist Aides<br>Median hourly wage: | \$11.93  |
| ▲ Average annual wage:                            | \$26,968 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

## Physical Therapist Aides

### Job Outlook

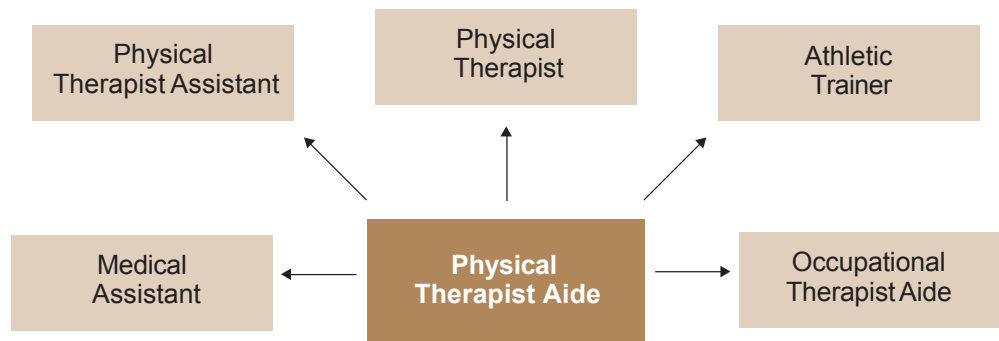
- ▲ Estimated number of Physical Therapist Aides in 2004: 4,700
- ▲ Estimated number of Physical Therapist Aides in 2014: 6,200
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 230

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

### Sources of Information

- ▲ American Physical Therapy Association  
(703) 684-2782  
[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 451  
Physical Therapy Aides and Assistants

### Possible Career Paths



*The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.*